Wal-Mart has already demonstrated that as a corporation, their main interest is profit for those at the top. Their employees are underpaid, underinsured and totally under-respected, and must put themselves at the mercy of the American public in order to have health care. There is no reason to think that anything would be different with Wal-Mart as a bank. Employees would continue to be underpaid, underinsured and under-respected. Competent employees, if any, would be unlikely to stay long in such conditions. This is not the way to provide service to the public.

Wal-Mart is already guilty of undermining local economy in many towns, simply by running the competition out of business. It is difficult enough already to find a small local bank that can provide the kind of community service that I grew up with. My father, one of my aunts and one of my uncles were all employed by community banks.

As a corporation that is known to break the law in the retail business, there is no reason to think they will do any better in the banking business. As the world's largest corporation, it would be almost impossible to enforce banking law. Who is to say that the FDIC would be in control? Entire communities could easily be ruined with such a concentration of power. Not only could their retail stores price the competition out of business, but in addition, their banks could refuse to loan to their competition. Here, in fact, is a huge conflict of interest that should be stopped.

Allowing Wal-Mart into the banking business would be like truning an elephant loose in a colony of ants. If any of the ants remain alive after the elephant has walked through their territory once, it will be merely an oversight.

This must not be allowed.

Deborah Pelletier